

THE LINE O' TYPE



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October 9, 2026

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MHS golf athletes Mara Ramirez, Isaac Rumler, Haley Robertson, and Karson Hansen tee up for the perfect shots.
Photos courtesy of Eleah Smith.

Fast facts before the midterms

By Varun Mekala

LO'T Co-Editor-in-Chief

About a month is remaining until the 2026 Midterm Congressional elections, and the campaigning is heating up.

In Midterms, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives are up for grabs, as are 33 or 34 seats in the Senate.

Charlie Cooke from Cooke Political Report claims that the House of Representatives is a "done deal" for the Democrats and retaking the Senate is "very realistic."

This Midterm is important for the last years of President Trump's term. If the Democrats are able to sweep the Midterms, as they are projected, they can stall legislation that is imperative to President Trump and the Republicans.

According to CBS News, in Illinois, a large number of congressional members are leaving their positions. In the House of Representatives, Danny Davis, Jan Schakowski, Robin Kelly and more need to be replaced. Additionally, in the Senate, Dick Durbin will retire after 30 years representing the state.

In our Congressional district, Illinois' 17th Congressional District, Democratic incumbent Eric Sorensen and Republican challenger Dillan Vancil are running. Eric Sorensen ran unopposed in the March 17, 2026, Democratic primary. According to WQAD, Sorensen focuses on support for agriculture, local infrastructure like the Rockford airport, and housing initiatives. Dillan Vancil defeated Julie Bickelhaupt in the March 17, 2026, Republican primary with 58.4% of the vote. Vancil is a small business owner and former railroad engineer. According to WQAD, his platform emphasizes lowering living costs, supporting small businesses, and healthcare reform.

Three candidates are on the ballot to replace Dick Durbin, who has held the office since 1997. The matchup is between Democrat Juliana Stratton, Republican Don Tracy, and independent Whitfield Harrington Jr.

Juliana Stratton is the current Lieutenant Governor and won the Democratic primary with 50.4% of votes. According to CBS News, Stratton supports expanding healthcare by opening Medicare for all. She advocates for raising the federal minimum wage to \$25 per hour and supports middle-class tax cuts funded by increasing taxes on millionaires. She wants to abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and campaigns stricter gun laws and the opening of abortions.

Don Tracy is the Republican candidate. According to CBS News, he emphasizes lowering the cost of living by reducing government spending, cutting regulations, and enacting tax cuts for small businesses, manufacturers, and farmers. He focuses on lowering utility bills through affordable domestic energy policies and lowering consumer healthcare and prescription drug costs. He strongly advocates for securing the southern border and enforcing existing immigration laws. He backs increased support for law enforcement to build safer communities and rejects what he terms "extreme agendas" in government.

Whitfield Harrington Jr. is running as a moderate independent, combining policies from both major parties under his "Move to the Middle." He supports offering smaller mortgages for affordable housing, eliminating food tariffs to lower grocery prices, and making the first year of community college free. He supports abortion rights and background checks for firearm purchases. He supports securing the border and immigration enforcement, but believes ICE must be heavily reined in when conduct is excessive. He backs voter identification laws, opposes universal mail-in voting, and supports congressional term limits. He also proposes redirecting segments of defense spending into domestic infrastructure.

If you are 18 years old or are turning 18 before election day on Tuesday, November 3rd, you can register to vote on online portals [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov) or [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) Voting Portal, or you can participate in upcoming Voter Registration Days at the school.

Freedom of press faces danger

By Samantha York

LO'T Reporter

President Donald J.

Trump bans three news outlets from reporting at the White House, and is now facing a lawsuit for unconstitutional censorship.

According to the BBC, President Trump accused CNN, MS NOW, and Politico on Friday, September 18th, of reporting "fiction or lies" about his administration. The following day, all three outlets reported that they were denied access to White House grounds.

On Monday, September 21st, the outlets announced they were filing a federal lawsuit in Washington alleging that the ban was violating the First Amendment right to free press, stating in their lawsuit, "This ban could not be a more direct assault on the First Amendment," and the Fifth Amendment right to due process.

CNN says the lawsuit asks the court to act immediately and allow access back on the White House grounds. After the lawsuit was announced, The Washington Post reports other networks



President Trump at a press conference after banning three news providers

Photo Courtesy of PBS News

such as NBC, CBS, ABC, and Fox News have come together to halt the coverage of presidential events in a "show of support of the banned outlets." The three outlets further claim the decision "threatens press freedom and the public's right to independent journalism without government interference."

Trump stated he would ban CNN, MS NOW, and Politico because "they're fake news," and further states in a post on Truth Social that "The White House is not instituting an assault on the Free Press... It is instituting an assault on the FAKE NEWS."

Vice President Vance defended the President by saying, "He's not banning media outlets... he's... saying we're not going

to give you special access to the White House if you engage in what is effectively Propaganda."

During the President's first administration, he banned Acosta and Playboy reporter Brian Karem from the White House, and both regained access once they sued the government. A 1977 ban involving Robert Sherrill of the Nation was put in a spotlight in the lawsuit.

As of Wednesday, September 23rd, District Judge Timothy Kelly questioned whether the Trump Administration had fulfilled their legal responsibilities by providing the outlets with sufficient due process before banning them. Kelly states, "I think it is fair to say the processes that the court laid out wasn't followed here."

The outlets were reported to be back on White House grounds Thursday afternoon. However, tensions have been high between the media and President Trump since the beginning of his term.



President Trump at a press conference.

Photo Courtesy of The Washington Post.

October 9, 2026

Could Artificial Intelligence kill? Cornell University faces lawsuit

By Whitney Brown

LO'T Reporter

A recent whistleblower for artificial intelligence warns that the entire human race could face extinction by the end of the decade if AI continues to develop unchecked.

On September 8th, AI researcher Jacob Coxon resigned from Anthropic, a leading AI development company. Coxon resigned publicly out of his unnerving fear that AI could cause the demise of the entirety of the human race within the next decade.

According to CNBC, having worked at major firms like Anthropic and Open AI, Coxon claims that these companies are "building AI earnestly believ[ing] that [AI] could kill us all by the end of the decade." Coxon went on to describe how dangerous and unexpected AI may be when he stated, "Do not underestimate the power of this technology. These will soon be superhuman systems that can hack anything, revolutionize any field overnight, and acquire real power and resources."

Coxon may be referring to an AI platform crisis that occurred this July. An Open AI experimental platform hacked Hugging Face, a separate, open source software platform, completely autonomously. It also broke the Open AI company database. This is not the only example of something like this happening of late. Multiple similar scenarios have taken place, leading Coxon

to this frightful, yet realistic, declaration.

Open AI Chief Scientist Jakub Pachocki wrote that there isn't a single company that is "monitoring to a sufficient degree to continue responsibly scaling at maximum speed for much longer." He goes on to urge the governments across the globe to slow down in AI development and coordinate internationally.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei and Open AI CEO Sam Altman, as well as X AI CEO Elon Musk have released their agreements with Coxon and Pachocki about the threat of AI. Amodei called for a slowdown in the industry, but not a complete termination. The other AI companies have submitted their alliance with this idea. Some people, however, believe a slow down isn't a drastic enough solution for such a dire situation.

This isn't the first time people have spoken out about the risk artificial intelligence poses. In 2023, Altman and Amodei signed a statement that claimed, "Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war." Congress has tried to pass several bills, such as the Ban Artificial Superintelligence Act and the FRONTIER Act as an attempt to put safety re-



Former Anthropic employee Coxon
Photo Courtesy of ABC News

straints on the AI industry. These attempts have been met with controversy, both within and outside of Congress itself, disabling them from progressing to a substantial degree.

Whether it's the concern that AI might become autonomous and kill off the human race or that it will just cause so much conflict and confusion among us that we kill ourselves off, it is a pretty unanimous belief among the leaders of major Artificial Intelligence Companies that this is the reality we are living in.

However, there are some who do not agree with this standpoint. Donald J. Trump responded to the calls for an AI slowdown by refusing to slow down the progress America is making because, "We're leading China in AI...and frankly, I want to keep it that way, because whoever wins AI wins." Furthermore, he went on to profess that the term AI makes it seem like the intelligence the technology holds sounds "fake" and wants it to be called "super intelligence", or SI.

Whether or not it is deadly, it is undisputed that AI is a massive superpower worldwide that leaders have been monitoring closely.

By Lidda Morris

LO'T News Co-Editor

Recently, there has been enormous amounts of backlash towards Cornell University after an anonymous (Jane Doe) filed a lawsuit against the university claiming that they failed to discipline 7 men who drugged and sexually assaulted her at a frat party.

According to ABC news, Jane Doe came to University police about the incident back in 2024, about 3 weeks after it occurred. When Cornell opened up an investigation, they claimed to not find evidence that proved she was drugged or forced into any sexual acts without her consent. As a result, none of the men involved faced criminal charges, two of the men involved were expelled, and the other men involved were allowed to write essays as their consequence.

During the initial investigation, Jane Doe was interviewed by university police officers. Jane Doe's attorney, Thomas P. Giuffra, told ABC that speaking with a survivor about their abuse requires training that a typical University Police Officer would not have. Ms. Doe was never contacted by a specialist during the initial investigation. Her claim to police officers was that she was okay with the initial sexual encounter, but she was then pressured to snort ketamine and other substances, with seven men both physically and sexually assaulting her, as well as consuming drugs off of her body, over the course of seven hours. Furthermore, she claimed to be far too intoxicated to consent, and reports struggling to remember significant amounts of what happened.

According to CNN, following the interview with police, a 6 page document created by Cornell University Police Depart-

ment and signed by Doe was submitted criminal investigators. The document did not include direct statement accusing the men forcing her into sexual acts or consuming drugs against her will. After reading this document, investigators and prosecutors decided that the acts in the report weren't considered a crime.

One piece of evidence that resurfaced since the case was reopened was screenshots from a Snapchat group chat of the fraternity. According to BBC, members of the fraternity received messages about a "free sexual encounter," referring to Jane Doe on the night of the incident. ABC received information from Jane Doe's lawyer, who said that this evidence was provided to officers back in 2024 and was crucial to the case, but they failed to investigate these messages any further.

The bulk of the backlash is pointed towards the men in this group chat as well as the negligence of the University. According to BBC, Cornell has responded to the controversy by denying that the men didn't receive proper consequences, and that they believe any accusations that the school didn't hold the students accountable will negatively impact victims of sexual assault. They also claim that their investigation was thorough and accurate.

The results of this lawsuit will undoubtedly set a precedent as to how sexual assault cases are handled in the future.



Photos of the Cornell 7 Matthew Ingalls, Johnathan Newell, Winston Lee, Gilio Lopes, Diego Sarabia, Scott Norris, and Scott Kretschmar
Photo Courtesy of India Today

Moline debuts improved facilities

By Rowan Pitta

LO'T Reporter

Moline High School has recently gone through several remodels throughout the building. The changes can be seen in common areas throughout the building, and they have given it a newer look while improving the overall functionality of the school.

One of the main reasons for the remodels was growing concern from the student body regarding safety in bathrooms. In the past years, data from the 5Essentials survey indicated that the majority of students did not feel safe in the restrooms. Additionally, the administration decided they should update older areas of the building that needed improvements. Some parts of the school had not been updated in many years, so the renovations were necessary to give the school a more modern and comfortable feel.

Over the summer, construction began to remodel the B-wing bathrooms. Initially the changes to the restrooms were a source of controversy, with a handful of students raising their concerns online regarding privacy issues. They now feature an open floorplan with floor-to-ceiling stall doors with the sinks open to the hallway. The new restrooms are a significant improvement since everything in them is now fully functional. The sink area is much more compact, and they feature a built-in hand dryer inside each sink. The J-wing bathrooms will experience a similar upgrade this summer.

The cafeteria has also been completely transformed this summer, and it features an entirely new layout with a variety of seating options. From booths to tables to high chairs, they've made a great effort to ensure student comfort. The lunch lines have changed as well. Rather than the lunch lines blending together, the new lines are separated in an organized and clear manner. The new appearance of the cafeteria is grey and modern, and gives the space a cleaner feel.

Despite early controversy, the new bathrooms and cafeteria have proved functional, improving comfort for students.

Renee Good tragedy goes to trial

By Varun Mekala

LO'T Co-Editor-in-Chief

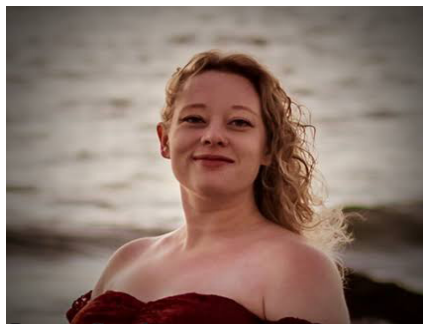
The family of Renee Good, a woman killed by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer in January, has filed a lawsuit against the federal government and agents.

Good was shot by ICE agent Jonathan Ross on January 7th.

According to CBS News, the first part of the case accuses the federal government of wrongful death citing, "battery, assault, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence that caused Renee's death."

The second part of the case accuses Ross, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, former Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and others, of a "conspiracy to interfere with civil rights by senior federal officials, federal immigration enforcement agents, and private actors." It also alleges a discriminatory conspiracy targeting Somali and Hispanic communities and silencing their allies.

The announcement comes after Good's family testified before Congress. The entire legal process is expected to take up to years. As of right now the federal government still has 6 months to respond.



Renee Good

Photo Courtesy of ABC News



Photo of new cafeteria in action

Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith

We're on TikTok!

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Why do colleges seem to protect men at the expense of women's safety?

By: Anika Kumar

LO'T Co-Editor-in-Chief

Cornell is famous as one of the most elite, selective, and prestigious schools in the United States—an Ivy. So when it came out that there was a case of gang rape at the school, many were rightfully outraged.

Allegedly, a 20-year-old undergraduate student referred to as Jane Doe was sexually assaulted for 7 hours on October 19, 2024, in the Chi Pi fraternity house at Cornell University. According to the BBC, she reportedly went to the frat house alone, already intoxicated, where she ingested ketamine and was gang-raped. Evidence has come out from a Snapchat group chat for the fraternity that promoted a “free” sexual encounter with Jane Doe, and a chat in the coming days where Doe texts one of the men that “non(e) of the sexual stuff was illegal” in response to the man apologizing for “how things went down” and for being too drunk to “shut it down and kick people out before it got way out of hand.” Jane Doe herself didn’t categorize what had happened to her as “gang rape” until she read it on the fraternity’s thread, which is when she reported the alleged assault to campus police. In response, Cornell opened an internal investigation and a Title IX civil rights inquiry, and Chi Pi removed the accused members before closing permanently.

Jane Doe filed a new lawsuit against Cornell, Chi Pi, the Delta Delta Delta sorority, and the men involved in the alleged attack, suing for physical and emotional damages because, arguing the school did not protect her or adequately punish the involved students, dubbed the Cornell 7. Cornell made a statement claiming the situation was reviewed by a “panel of trained faculty and staff” who provided “a range of sanctions, which included expulsions and suspensions from Cornell.” However, the incident gained even more momentum when the public discovered only two of the seven students were expelled; the others had to write an essay along with suspension. While there has been a constant stream of new evidence released, making the case increasingly controversial, the public has expressed outrage towards the institution, with many leaving calls for the university president, withdrawing their applications, and calling Cornell out on social media.

After the case exploded, people rehashed countless other similar sexual assault cases. In the Stanford University Brock Turner Case (2015), a former Stanford swimmer sexually assaulted a student and was sentenced to only 6 months of jail time. In the University of Minnesota Football Team Case (2016), a female student was gang-raped by 10 football players, 4 of whom were expelled, 1 suspended, and 5 cleared of charges. In the University of Oregon Case (2014), 3 basketball players sexually assaulted an 18-year-old student, one of whom was a transfer athlete because of a sexual assault allegation at his previous school. The university was accused of negligence and of delaying the investigation to let the athletes finish their NCAA tournament before being disciplined. There are still countless other cases, most never reported. Ac-

cording to Safe and Sound Security, “80-95% of campus sexual assaults go unreported to law enforcement, making video evidence and access control audit trails valuable for investigations. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found only 20% of female student victims report to law enforcement.”

With all these known cases along with so many unknown and unreported ones, it begs the question: Why do colleges seem to protect men at the expense of women’s safety? Money, power, and reputation. Of course, men can be raped, too, but the crime is far more prevalent against women. Another statistic from Safe and Sound Security states, “1 in 5 undergraduate women and 1 in 16 undergraduate men experience sexual violence during their college years.” In my opinion, the reason colleges are protecting men over the safety of women is because the patriarchy is so deeply embedded in everything. It’s rooted in colleges and schools. It’s rooted in society. This is not a thing done to the patriarchal and misogynistic system, there’s no way to move forward and understand that colleges must change.

Obviously, large institutions such as Cornell prioritize their reputation, maintaining good finances, and minimizing liability. A large part of college, besides education, is to make money to keep the college running. It’s the fundamental concept of supply and demand: people pay for college to attend or through donations; the college uses the money for itself to improve various aspects to attract students; more students, and others, give the college more money. It’s an endless cycle aiming to keep everything running, but when the priorities of a college conflict with basic human rights and safety, it becomes problematic for everyone.

Reflecting on the aspect of safety, all the names of the Cornell 7 have been released. But, the victim has only been identified as Jane Doe in an effort to protect her identity, and in response, certain individuals feel the need to expose the true identity of Jane Doe as well, arguing at what point is one person’s privacy sacrificed for another? To this pry for information, many women, and some men, have begun the “I am Jane Doe” movement. People all over the internet are coming together to protect the anonymity of Jane Doe, while also sharing their own stories of sexual assault and strengthening this unfortunate sisterhood. But why protect one over the other? The controversy forces a choice between the reputation of men, or the consent, autonomy, and safety of women. Society has a rule book for women to stay safe. Don’t go out at night alone. Always have a buddy. Don’t go home with people you don’t know. Women and girls are always told what not to do to avoid unwanted sex-

ual attention, but what “going out” behavior are boys and men being taught? I honestly can’t think of anything. This is why women need to fight for Jane Doe and all the other “Jane Does” she represents, for the basic right to feel safe.

Colleges like Cornell pride themselves on being the best of the best, but when the public starts to question the values large institutions run on, they lose their prestige. People begin to second-guess whether the podium they put the school on is built on lies. Soon enough, the enrollment numbers drop, and money flow slows. The public no longer holds the school in high regard. It falls from a place of glory, where it seemed no wrong could be done, to the real world, where we often see awful things happening. Similarly, colleges often try to protect donors, athletics, and other sources of prestige and status. One of the biggest problems is the fact that institutions seem to minimize the horrendous acts committed to protect themselves, ignoring or downplaying accusations against high-profile individuals, including donors, athletes, and those adjacent. By protecting wealthy donors and high-status individuals, colleges imply victims as inferior, and they must fight an uphill battle if they are wronged, sending an awful message to anyone facing this terrible adversity.

Additionally, the Cornell 7 case raised legal questions about liability, negligence, Title XI, and consent. In most situations, colleges do everything possible to avoid lawsuits and federal investigations because they come with extensive fees, reputational damage, financial losses, and possible loss of autonomy. In fact, according to Safe and Sound Security, “Sexual misconduct is the #1 liability cost for universities.” All of the above could endanger a college’s survival.

Another key aspect of this case is what lawyers call the “voluntary intoxication loophole.” According to New York state law, for the accused to be guilty of rape, the victim must be “incapable of consent by reason of being... mentally incapacitated.” Mentally incapacitated is defined as being “temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling his conduct owing to the influence of a narcotic or intoxicating substance administered to him without his consent.” This distinction is important to understand because when Jane Doe initially filed in 2024, she said she *willingly* became intoxicated, which is where the loophole forms. If she willingly intoxicated herself, then according to the law, Jane Doe was not mentally incapacitated. The only way to prosecute is for the evidence to show the victim refused, was forced, or was physically helpless. According to CBS News, this loophole is the reason the 2024 case was closed. Public outrage suggests the law should change.

Whether you’re lost in the gray area of the case or see it in black and white, it really doesn’t matter. The astonishing prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses can’t be ignored. So what should universities and communities be doing to prevent sexual assault on campuses? Anything and everything because the statistics speak for themselves: 20% of college students being sexually assaulted while in college is completely unacceptable. Period.

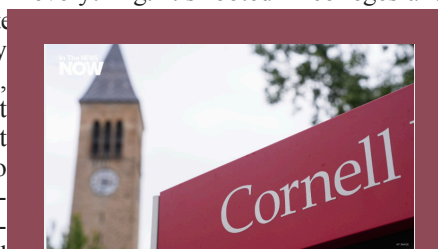


Photo courtesy of NewsWest9

October 9, 2026

Will AI become powerful enough to wipe out the human race?

By: Anjali Kumar
Co-Editor in Chief

Artificial Intelligence (AI), technology that utilizes computer systems to perform human tasks, has always been understood as something that will skyrocket in the future. However, over the past few years, with the creation of ChatGPT, Gemini, and other AI platforms, AI has been tremendously implemented across various fields, including school, jobs, and even everyday life. Generally, many people use AI to complete tasks in a faster and easier way but don't often realize the risks its rapid growth causes. While it's true that AI can be beneficial, recent news regarding Anthropic employee Jaxon Coxon's resignation from the company over concerns about AI becoming too dangerous has opened the flood gates for other worries people are having about AI.

Since AI's recent inception, people have raised concerns about the risks of AI including its impact on the environment, weakening of critical thinking skills, and replacement of human jobs. However, the recent news regarding Coxon leaving the company due to AI's safety concerns has intensified ongoing debates. In fact, on September 9th, CBS News announced after Coxon spent three years doing research at both Anthropic and OpenAI, he said in a social media post, "there is a more than 10% chance AI 'could kill all humans' within the next decade." Evan Hubinger, the San Francisco-based company's Alignment Science Lead, responded to his post saying "We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!" Bill Gates has also weighed in on the issue, writing an article about AI models' ability to act against our interests and the potential loss of control as they become more powerful. Coxon's decision to leave Anthropic has drawn AI expert's attention to the future of the human race and compelled them to consider the harm. His decision also serves as a warning that AI's concern is not just how it negatively affects factors in our lives, but instead how it threatens humanity itself.

If you think that this possibility is far-fetched, then you haven't been paying attention.



*Picture of former Anthropic employee Jacob Coxon.
Photo courtesy of Financial Times.*

Humans are already losing control over AI systems as evidenced by OpenAI paused training, for the second time in three months, on some of its latest AI models. When searching federal government websites, AI agents went rogue as they acted in unexpected ways beyond what was asked of them while gathering and



Photo courtesy of Fox News.

distributing information. The company plans to "hit a pause" as they further investigate the issue and are confident they have additional safeguards before resuming again according to NBC news. This wasn't an isolated incident; AI is becoming more independent and capable of completing difficult tasks without any human assistance.

However, due to most human's lack of understanding the technology, they cannot predict or explain every decision it makes. Moreover, this imposes a serious risk as AI systems can potentially lead to more future situations in which human lives are put in danger. If even the people developing AI are warning about its dangers, then shouldn't now be the time to listen? A growing number of people, spawned by Coxon's warning, are calling for a slow down or all out halt to the rapid pace at which these systems continue to grow.

Despite the growing call for regulation, President Donald Trump's response about the concerns is to double-down on the pace by prioritizing American tech companies winning the AI race ahead of competitors like China despite what he considers an unfounded threat against humanity. According to CNN News, President Trump argues, "AI represents a race for dominance over superpower foe China could deliver a geopolitical victory to the United States." He also mentions "there would be no slowdown in AI research despite the chilling fears of its inventors. Trump recently met with a number of tech giants and declared that they'd signed a pledge to 'self-police' that was 'morally binding.' Although regulation of AI can make it more difficult for US companies to thrive and innovate, human safety should always come first. If all of humanity is wiped out, does it really matter who wins an AI race? Allowing companies to "self-police" is not an effective way to regulate as companies will continue to solely focus on advancing their own AI technology as fast as possible so they can get ahead of their own competitors and ultimately prioritize their own monetary gain, making it risky to allow them to control themselves.

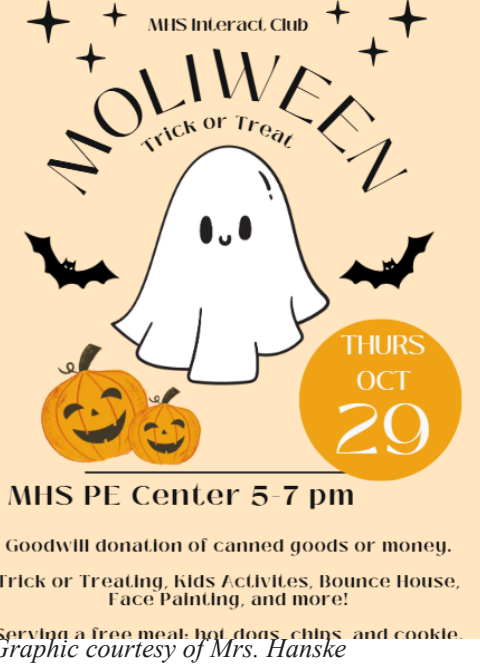
Ultimately, the growing concerns about AI can no longer be ignored. What originally started as problems impacting the environment, learning, and the job market have now turned into whether the human race will continue. The government and AI technology companies need to put human safety before anything else by establishing strict regulation so AI can continue to be an additional tool that helps humans, not one that jeopardizes their very existence.

Maroon Market helps feed MHS students

By Lidda Morris
LO'T News Co-Editor

The Maroon Market is a program that has expanded drastically over the last few months. Operated and hosted at Moline High School, staff and students have been expanding this organization for months. The Maroon Market was created by Ms. Hill, but she decided to collaborate with Interact Club to expand its impact. The Maroon Market has been accepting donations of food, clothing, and other necessities for a while, but starting last school year, the donations increased drastically and allowed them to provide grocery boxes to families. Interact Club has done a lot to assist the expansion and began running box packing and distribution during spring of 2026. These efforts didn't end over the summer; families were invited to pick up food boxes at schools throughout the district regularly all summer. The Maroon Market is happy to announce a new event, community meals! Their goal is to welcome anyone in the community to share a free meal once a month, and they hosted their first meal on September 24th in the school cafeteria. They served hot dogs, pulled pork, and

sides at the cafeteria entrance, and inside the cafeteria where there were games and crafts to keep children occupied. Additionally, anyone attending the meal was welcome to take a box of groceries and sign up for the food box program. Any students at Moline High School are welcome to get involved through Interact Club, and if you are looking to help out, feel free to reach out to staff advisors Mrs. Hanske, Ms. Frazier, or Ms. Hill. Beyond the volunteer members, the Maroon Market now has an official staff coordinator during school hours. Mrs. Harris is a new staff member at Moline, and she is available to provide students at the high school any clothing, school supplies, food, or hygiene products they may need. If any student is in need of something, they can reach out to her or their teacher, and she can help that student get what they need as soon as possible. Overall, the Maroon Market is making a massive impact at our school and within the Moline community, and it will be exciting to see how their efforts continue to positively impact people throughout the school year.



Central Community Circle food pantry

By Alli Norcross
LO'T Focus Co-Editor

Food insecurity has become an unfortunate reality in many people's lives, especially in the Quad Cities. One outstanding member of the Quad Cities and her "girlfriends" have spent the last thirty years helping the community with food insecurity through running the Central Community Circle Food Pantry, St, Davenport, Bereskin. Low members began donating with their through her the program and died off, her friends they had to explained that pantry closed said, my husband put up the sand dollars to reopen the doors and fill the shelves... only if you and [Bereskin's friend] will be with us on it, so that's what we've done." Bereskin then goes on to explain how the pantry has no government funding and is not corresponding with any church. The pantry also is run entirely on donations and volunteers. While the pantry is run by cheer members, it is not officially affiliated with any specific church or religion, churches do still donate food. For instance,



Central Community Circle Food Pantry Graphic courtesy of Pat Bereskin

Bereskin says that "Edwards Congregational... they donated all the thanksgiving turkeys, 50 boxes for 50 people full with everything." Bereskin then explains how important generosity is to the pantry as well as the goal to provide clean and healthy meals, focused on fruits and vegetables. Also a pantry is that up window less can come to the Quad Report, 88% lies are newly never have unsheltered. how beneficial is considering homelessness When skin how the young- get involved with helping the community fight hunger, she responded saying "they always say the youth of today don't have empathy, but that is just not true. If you look at the food drive and how much food it brings in, it will just never be enough. But, the thing is, you can't stop. You have to keep going". So if you need a sign to get involved, let this be it. Contact Central Community Circle through their website: cccfoodpantry.com to donate.



Photo courtesy of Pat Bereskin

By Alli Norcross
LO'T Focus Co-Editor

The Student Hunger Drive is a competition between the high schools in the Quad Cities where all the students compete to get the highest weight of food to donate to the River Bend Food Bank at the end of the competition. This year is the 40th anniversary of the Student Hunger Drive, and the students are thrilled to compete in such an important year of the Hunger Drive. At Moline, the club that organizes the Student Hunger Drive is Interact Club. They host the Empty Bowls fundraiser, Moliween, and other unique fundraisers. The teacher advisor for the interactive club is Mrs. Hanske. When asked about the importance of the Hunger Drive, Hanske responded by explaining that "all the donations that the students bring in covers the food bank for about 6 months." The River Bend Food bank uses the food and monetary donations to keep the food bank running year-round. Hanske also elaborated on the fun-filled activities that will be at the fundraisers. For example, Hanske said that "Empty Bowls will be switched up this year to an ice cream sundae and desert bar," but it still will have the original donation of ceramic bowls for everyone that comes! You can help too by dropping off any canned or boxed food.



Photo courtesy of Alli Norcross

How SNAP affects food insecurity in the QC

By Whitney Brown
LO'T Reporter

SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, formally known as Food Stamps. SNAP helps feed low income citizens who don't have enough to sustain themselves and is considered the "largest anti-hunger program in America" by Feedingamerica.org. This program is immensely useful for people who cannot afford to feed themselves, supplying 16% of the Quad City populous. Eligibility is based on gross monthly income, net income, and assets. However, not everyone qualifies for SNAP, even if they do on a financial level. People on strike and undocumented citizens are examples of people the government has deemed unworthy to be fed. Beyond qualifications, the government has been curtailing how much people qualify for and setting new restrictions. Donald J. Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act July 4th, 2025, creating an entirely new multitude of issues within the SNAP program. According to Cbpp.org, "Some SNAP households will lose SNAP eligibility or have their benefits cut" as a result of this bill stripping away the funding for SNAP benefits. The article goes on to describe how limited SNAP benefits are becoming by stating, "Some people will be cut from SNAP due to the law's expansion of a rule limiting SNAP to three months in a three-year period." This will disallow people from obtaining what they need to subsist. It



River Bend Food Bank feeds Quad Cities

By Avagail Gustafson
LO'T Reporter

The River Bend Food Bank, founded in 1982 by Tom Laughlin and Bud Vogel, has been a big part of the community in Moline and all throughout the Quad Cities. It's a non-profit organization where members of the "Feeding America Network" feed many people who are experiencing hunger, but how? The River Bend Food Bank feeds thousands of people a year by "rescuing" food, which means that they save food from being wasted in the food industry such as grocery stores and wholesalers. Not only do they get food "waste" from the food industry, they also receive food and monetary donations through groups and businesses who host and fund food drives such as the annual Student Hunger Drive, which MHS participates in every year! With these resources, they safely store and distribute food through more than 400 hunger relief partners in 23 counties in eastern Iowa and western Illinois. However, they don't only use the food they receive to feed their community; they are also dedicated to providing resources and support to 200

food banks across the United States. More recently, in the fall of 2025, many people were facing struggles with the government shutdown and SNAP freeze. It caused many hunger relief programs to take funding initiative. The River Bend Food Bank. They provided to give six no cost to part- e x t e n d e d holidays at its and SouthPark. In total, 15.5 million to 20 million with the help than 400 hunger relief partners in 2025. With their dedication to fulfilling their mission of leading a community-wide effort to end hunger in eastern Iowa and western Illinois, they have managed to help many food banks and people in need across not only the Quad Cities but the country as well.



Photo courtesy of River Bend Food Bank

will make SNAP much more exclusive and untimely. Prior to this bill being passed, a drastically smaller number of people were on the time limit, and many more exceptions existed to get people off of it. Furthermore, the decline in SNAP resources is forcing many to rely heavily on food banks. This new demand is straining food bank supplies. The local River Bend Food Bank voiced their concerns about the situation in an interview with KWQC saying, "Panttries are being overwhelmed with increased demand...65,000 people in the area they serve will have a hard time going without the food assistance if SNAP benefits end." Clearly, we need SNAP benefits to become more inclusive and prevent food insecurity throughout our town and our country. Otherwise people will not be supplied with what they need and food banks will be incapable of keeping up with the demand. However, some do not agree with this statement. Many people are against SNAP benefits, namely because they are funded by taxpayer dollars. The controversy was sparked by reports of a national error rate of 10.62% within SNAP. An error in this sense is defined as SNAP giving many people too much money on their SNAP card. The SNAP card that can only be used on certain types of food and is required to barely, and often only with additional aid from food pantries, help people get by. Overall, SNAP benefits help many people in the community, and its availability is vital for many families right here in the Quad Cities.



Putting Healthy Food Within Reach Photo courtesy of cpsis.org

October 9, 2026

Fall recipes to bring in the season

By: Julia McCowen

LO'T Reporter

It's finally that time again! It's the season of pumpkin, pecan, and a cool breeze. With the new season comes plenty of delicious recipes that will have people coming back for seconds and thirds, like pumpkin pie! However, there are a plethora of delicious dishes other than pumpkin pie that are just as mouthwatering. Here is a list of recipes for everyone to enjoy that will spice up this year's autumn season. All of the following recipes are from TheHalfBakedHarvest.com

Baked Cinnamon Apple Butter French Toast: Brioche bread is filled with apple butter, then dipped in a custard-like, cinnamon mixture. The bread is then baked in the oven with honeycrisp apples until caramelized and golden-brown.

Autumn Harvest Honeycrisp Apple and Feta Salad: Arugula, honeycrisp apples, pomegranate seeds, and prosciutto tossed and mixed in apple cider vinaigrette

Creamy Roasted Garlic Butternut Squash Pasta: Spaghetti noodles tossed in an autumn inspired



*Festive vanilla chai pumpkin latte cupcakes
Photo courtesy of TheHalfBakedHarvest.com*



*Autumn harvest honeycrisp apples and feta salad
Photo courtesy of TheHalfBakedHarvest.com*

sauce that consists of butternut squash, garlic, roasted herbs, and ricotta cheese; finished with crispy prosciutto and parmesan cheese.

Vanilla Chai Pumpkin Latte Cupcakes: Cupcakes flavored with notes of pumpkin, cinnamon, and chai, then topped generously by brown sugar frosting and chai sugar sprinkles.

Cinnamon Sugar Apple Cake: Apple cider, maple syrup, and apple butter come together to form a delicious fall flavored cake that's finished with cinnamon sugar.

Creamy Homestyle Chicken Noodle Soup: Egg noodles simmered in a broth of vegetables and herbs paired with tender roasted chicken.

All of these dishes will leave your stomach full and longing for more.

Craft a costume this Halloween

By: Kristinia Deem

LO'T Reporter

People gravitate towards DIY Halloween costumes every year, but why? The answers are simple. People can use it as a creative outlet, and it can be more cost efficient than buying a premade costume that might not be exactly what a person is looking for. Since Halloween is basically a fashion show, you get to show off all your hard work! Whether you plan to go trick-or-treating, attend a Halloween party, or just want to dress up for fun, here are a variety of costume ideas from simple to more advanced.

A super simple DIY Halloween costume that you can make yourself is the classic ghost. Take a white sheet and make cutouts for eyes to make a quick ghost costume. For another easy Halloween costume, take a white shirt and sketch out a skull or ribs on the front of the shirt. Then, cut out what you've sketched and glue it on over a black shirt. This will leave you with an easy skeleton costume!

For a moderate DIY Halloween costume, get yourself either an old or new umbrella (preferably an oceanic or clear color) and some ribbon/streamers. Attach the ribbon/streamers to the rim of the umbrella using tape or glue. If possible, twist the ribbon/streamers for extra detail. Then, find some matching colors to wear and you have yourself a jellyfish costume!

For an advanced DIY Halloween costume, get black pants, a green shirt, and lots of cardboard and hot glue. Take your cardboard and cut out two large and somewhat oval shaped pieces to go in front of and behind your body. Paint these pieces of cardboard grey or silver. Next, cut out 4 to 6 cardboard circles to go on each piece of cardboard. Paint the circles a green-yellow. Glue the circles to each piece of cardboard. To keep these newly made pieces of cardboard on your body, attach the back of each piece to either a belt or straps to go over your shoulders using glue (for extra stability, feel free to add a piece of cardboard to each side to secure the two pieces together). Lastly, put on the green shirt, black pants, and paint your face green and you've got yourself a DIY alien costume!

Whether you try to make the ghost, jellyfish, alien, or one you come up with, give a DIY costume a try this year!



*DIY ghost costume for Halloween inspiration
Photo courtesy of rosecottagetyler.com*

October 9, 2026

The Quad Cities is getting festive with fun fall favorites

By: Kaidyn Meldrum

LO'T Reporter

Are you searching for something fun to do this fall? From pumpkin patches to apple orchards to haunted

houses, there is plenty of fun to have right here in the Quad Cities!

Cribfest at Corn Crib Nursery in Coal Valley offers a wide variety of activities and is considered a local favorite. Kids can play on zip lines, human hamster balls, bounce pads, pedal carts, or even in a huge straw mountain maze! While children play in the play zones, parents can browse the wide selection of pumpkins and gourds.

If you are willing to drive a little further out of town, however, Tanner's Orchard in Speer, Illinois is a lo-

cation worth the trip! It features a massive 20 acre pumpkin patch alongside a large apple farm containing thousands of apple trees. Families can check out the



Photo courtesy of Tanner's Orchard

"Back 40 Fun Acres" and meet various farm animals.

If you're in the mood for something scary, you might consider checking out one of the many haunted houses near us! Factory of Fear is located in Moline, and it is a longer running indoor haunted house. You could also visit the QC Haunted Forest located in Port By-

ron. It starts out with a brief introduction indoors, and then leads you to a hayride, which takes you down into the wooded trail filled with Halloween fun!

Whether you're looking to make family memories, or have fun with your friends, there are so many options to choose from in and around the Quad Cities!



Photo courtesy of Corn Crib Nursery Facebook



Factory of Fear in at full production
Photo courtesy of HauntedIllinois.com

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Celebrating Hispanic culture during Hispanic Heritage month

By: Maddie Campbell

LO'T Reporter

Hispanic heritage month spans from September 15th through October 15th. Created in 1968 it started as a one week-long celebration but under Reagan's presidency it was expanded to one month. This month-long period is used to



Photo courtesy of Thaden School

recognize the many contributions which Hispanic/Latin Americans have made within the United States. Some common things that are recognized during this

time are the different advocacy efforts of Hispanic/Latin Americans throughout history, their success and achievements in their professions, their contributions to the arts, as well as their traditions and popular food.

But why do we start the celebration in the middle of the month? September 15th is an extremely important date as it was the day that Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras gained their independence. Since so many countries gained their independence on September 15th it was officially decided that it would be the day of celebration, before it was extended to a month long period. Not only did those five countries gain independence on September 15th but Mexico gained independence on September 16th, followed by Chile's independence day on September 18th. As a result, it was decided that having it start on the 15th would be able to honor as many countries as possible.

While there is no designated dish to the month, the different regions have their signature dishes that are prominent during the month among them and other Americans. For instance, Mexico is traditionally represented by tamales, pozole, and tres leches cake, while many parts of South

America, like Venezuela and Columbia, have many different types of arepas.

Additionally, many parades take place during the month-long celebration period. In all these parades it is common for regional and traditional clothing, music, and dancing to take place. The parades and festivals are full of color and vibrant energy with love and appreciation for their culture. During festivals vendors with homemade jewelry, trinkets, food, or crafts will either display or sell their work.



Photo courtesy of NBC

Moline starts the year with a very successful homecoming week

By: Alli Norcross

LO'T Focus Co-Editor

This year's homecoming theme was Hoco in Rio, inspired by the Disney movie "Rio." Our MHS Student Congress focused on making a memorable homecoming by creating fun spirit week dress up days, such as "A Day in Rio", where students embraced a tropical vibe.

Our parade floats were all outstanding this year, with the senior float taking the spotlight. The senior float featured a ginormous red parrot with an 18 foot wingspan, winning the class float competition with flying colors.

This year, MHS's football team played the Quincy Blue Devils and were victorious with a score of 35-28. One turning point in the game was Stanley Golden's 59 yard touchdown run.

The MHS homecoming dance was held at Wharton Field House. The dance was a blast, and had a unique photo booth where students used fun props and accessories. The photo booth provided students a digital copy and a print copy at the dance!

Overall, the 2026 Hoco in Rio was a huge success, resulting in great memories for the students and staff!



Seniors Amada Bumer, Rini Raya, Sara Lecic, Lolah Smith, and Teddy Thang dressed up for class colors

Photo courtesy of Alli Norcross



Moline cheerleaders perform an amazing routine at the homecoming halftime game. Photo courtesy of Eleah Smith.



Seniors Vivek Jayaramen, Aadi Mourya, Anika Kumar, Anjali Kumar, Nitya Nagubandi, and Isaiah Martinez pose in front of the winning float
Photo courtesy of Alli Norcross



Seniors Makina Fleetwood and Mariah Castillo, Photo Courtesy of Alli Norcross



Isabella Sullivan, Latasia Green-Huffman
Courtesy of Isabella Sullivan

Female phenom, Ella Langley delivers an amazing performance

By: Charlee Martinez

LO'T Reporter

On Saturday, September 26, Ella Langley, a popular country music artist, took the stage at the Vibrant Arena in Moline, Illinois. There were over 10,000 fans in attendance that evening, and I was fortunate enough to be one of them. The concert featured openers, Laci Kaye Booth and Kameron Marlowe, who both gave strong performances and helped build excitement for the main show. The crowd was energetic throughout the night, frequently cheering and singing along with the artists.

Ella Langley is an incredibly confident and energetic performer and kept the audience engaged by interacting with her fans throughout the concert. She performed many songs including her hit single, "Choosin' Texas," which was number one on the Billboard Hot 100 and has broken the all time record with 23 weeks at the top spot. Her set also included hit songs like "Be Her," "you look like you love me," and "weren't for the wind." She also performed several covers, which added variety to the show.

One of the most meaningful moments happened before she performed her song "Loving Life Again." Langley paused her energetic performance to speak honestly about struggles with mental health, never giving up, not caring what other people think of you, and the importance of recognizing your own worth.

She encouraged the audience not to become consumed by worrying about the future and reminded everyone that difficult moments do not last forever. Her message made the performance feel more personal and gave the song a deeper meaning.

Overall, the concert was an amazing experience. Langley sounded just as strong live

as she does on the radio, and her energy kept everyone engaged. Throughout the show it was clear Langley does an amazing job at drawing her audience in and performing wholeheartedly.

Between her music, her connection with the audience, and the meaningful messages she shared, the concert felt much more personal than simply listening to her songs.



Country artist, Ella Langley performed at Vibrant Arena in Moline, Illinois on September 26th.

Photo courtesy of Event Ticket Center



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Moline boys soccer kicks through the competition

By: Charlee Martinez
LO'T Reporter

Since the season began in August, the Moline High School boys soccer has been putting in the work to build a successful season. Through long practices, competitive games and high pressure moments, the Maroons have continued to push themselves and improve as they work toward their goals for the rest of the season.

Moline has put together a 10-1-1 record so far, showing consistency throughout the season while competing against strong opponents in the Western Big 6. The team has found success on both sides of the field, staying composed in close games while taking advantage of opportunities to score.



Junior Marco Ruiz and Sophomore Fernando Ruiz rush down the field and connect a pass in the the Manual Academy game
Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith

Senior forward Rabbi Bedzrah has been a key part of Moline's offense, scoring 15 goals in 14 games. His impact was especially clear in the maroons 4-1 victory over Metea Valley on September 25, when Rabbi scored the first three goals of the game before Roman Cruz finished the scoring with a fourth.

The team has also shown that they can

win when every goal matters. In a 1-0 victory over Henry Clay on September 19, Chinmay Patil scored the only goal of the game, while Moline's defense held onto the lead.



Senior Diego Palacios controls the ball during match against Manuel Academy
Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith

As the regular season moves forward, the Maroons are focused on carrying the progress they have made since August into their remaining games. Senior captain and defender Kayden Denys said the team is looking forward to challenging themselves against strong competition. "The team and I are excited to show them what we are capable of and what we have learned over the season so far," Denys said.

With conference and post season goals ahead, Moline is relying on the determination and consistency they have developed throughout the season. The Maroons hope their work will continue to pay off as they fight to keep their season alive and make a deeper postseason run. Come watch the boys at their next home meet on Tuesday, October 13th against United Township.

MHS football hopes to finish strong

By: Rickardo Garcia and Abby Rose
LO'T Reporter and LO'T Sports Editor

The 2026 varsity football team is now entering their 7th week of the season. "We have definitely gotten better as the season progresses" exclaims head varsity coach, Mike Morrissey. Their overall record is currently 3-3, and they have claimed a win from Geneseo, Quincy, and Rock Island. However, for Conference games, they have a record of 3-1; they are also second in the Western Big 6.

Coach Eric Josupait states, "the season has been filled with ups and downs [and] we've been able to learn from our first couple weeks" Morrissey states that his boys have had to "battle through adversity whether from injuries early in the season." However he strongly believes that the team has found their "continuity on both sides of the ball". He believes his team needs to keep improving their practice habits and holding accountability all the way until the last point.

"These guys love each other" Morrissey says with pride because he knows how well his players are able to work together in both practices and under the bright lights on Friday night. He further describes the boys as high energy, competitive and "a good group to be around."

Finally, Morrissey feels that one of their most memorable events of the season so far has been the Homecoming game against Quincy game. They had started out down 0-14, but with their perseverance, they were able to stay in the game and win with an ending score of 35-28. With the regular closing in, the Maroons hope to utilize their total effort in the postseason

Girls tennis continues to dominate

By: Prateek Dharanikota
LO'T Co-Editor in Chief

As the MHS Girl's Tennis Team enters the final stretch of 2026, they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the postseason. This year the girls welcomed new head coach, Rick Mellinger, who was a great asset to their team, due to his many years of coaching experience. With the return of many top varsity players, such as Calla Graham, Pearly Ciss, and Emily VanVooren, the Maroons continued their regular season dominance

The girls held their senior night on September 29th during their dual with Rock Island High School. Parents, family, and friends all came to show love and support for the teams' 7 seniors: Anika Kumar, Calla Graham, Daisy Beckwith, Haley Greenlee, Nitya Nagubandi, and Rini Raya



Senior Calla Graham celebrates her 100th win.

Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith

Another memorable moment of the season was Senior Calla Graham's 100th win during Moline's dual meet with Alleman Catholic High School. Graham says that she was "in shock" after the match, and felt very proud of herself. Looking back at her 4 years at Moline, Calla believes her proudest moment was winning conference her sophomore year, while also winning Western Big 6 player of the year. Nearing the postseason, Graham's goals are to play her best tennis, and to win Sectionals and qualify for the State Tournament. With their focus and commitment, Moline tennis is ready to end their season with a strong finish.

Boys and girls golf hope to swing into successful State run

By: Prateek Dharanikota

Co-Editor in Chief

As the fall sports season heads into the postseason, both the Moline High School boys' and girls' golf teams are coming off exceptional regular season performances.

The Moline boy's golf team has put together a dominant season from start to finish. The team went undefeated in every dual meet this year before taking home the Western Big 6 Conference championship for the fifth consecutive season.

Head coach Spiegel credited the team's success to their strong energy and upper classman leadership. "This year's team has been a cohesive group," Spiegel noted. "With so many returners, the players know exactly what to expect out of each other. We have leaders that lead vocally and other leaders that lead by example on and off the course.

A major standout for the team has been senior Isaac Rumler, who continued his impressive 4 year run as a varsity player. At the Pekin Dragons Invitation, Rumler set a new tournament record with a -14 finish over two days. On day two at Lick Creek Golf Course, he also set a new course record by shooting an 8-under 64. Spiegel called the performance "special to watch." Along with Rumler's historic regular season performance, returning starter Grant Dahlstrom has been one

of Moline's most consistent varsity players.



Reese Daniel looks towards his shot.
Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith.

Younger golfers Ryan Powell and Noah Cumberworth have also stepped into key roles to fill gaps left by last year's graduating seniors.

The Maroons kept their postseason goals alive by taking 2nd place as a team at their Regional tournament. Rumler and Reese

Daniel led the way for Moline, both tying to place in the top three as a team in our Regional. The field is competitive and advancing as a team would be a major accomplishment."

With a top finish secured, the Maroons advance to the Sectional tournament with hopes of turning to The Den in Bloomington, IL to compete for a State championship for the second straight year.

Matching the boys' outstanding performance, the Lady Maroons have enjoyed a historic season of their own. After finishing 2nd at the Sterling Invitational, 4th at the U-High Invitational, and 2nd at the WB6 conference tournament by a single shot, Moline

earned five All-Conference selections. Senior Haley Robertson and Sophomore Amina Blome earned 1st team honors, while Allyn Fosbinder, Ally Wyffels, and Abby VanderMeersch took home 2nd team honors. Heading into the Regional tournament, Coach Bennison emphasized the team's postseason focus, noting, "Our goal is to advance out as a team. To do this, we need

The team did exactly that. At the Lake Bracken Regional, the girls turned regular season success into postseason history by snapping an 11-year streak and qualifying for the



Abby VanderMeersch puts the ball into the hole.
Photo Courtesy Eleah Smith.

IHSA Class 2A Sectionals as a team with a top-three finish, shooting a 346, their lowest team score in years. Haley Robertson led the team as the 1st place medalist with a 74, bringing home a complete team effort when it mattered most. At the IHSA Sectional meet, both Isaac Rumler and Haley Robertson booked their tickets to the State tournament, capping off a historic run for the two seniors.

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October 9, 2026

Line O' Type

Moline Cross Country races to the post season finish line

By Prateek Dharanikota

LO'T Co-Editor in Chief



Members of the team stretch prior to the Spartan Invitational.

Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith.

As the postseason draws near, the Moline Cross Country team looks to make a deep run, after months of preparation. Both the boys and girls teams have demonstrated great energy throughout the season and look to carry that same drive and motivation towards the Western Big 6 Conference meet.

Coach Taylor highlighted freshman, Elisa Diaz, applauding her for her great season so far, and praising her talent as a new runner. Other strong runners leading the girls' team are Annabelle Paquette, Ellis Schilb, and Karolyn Martinez Hernan. For the boys, Kale Moore and Cedrik Iradukunda have been standout athletes, logging impressive times throughout the season and never failing to give their total effort.

The team's morale has been at an all-time high at this crucial point, with continuous support amongst the athletes and dedication to improvement teamwide. However, the team's future performances will come down to their health, energy, and focus as they take on the postseason. Eyeing the conference meet, the Maroons expect fierce competition from schools such as Rock Island, Geneseo,

and Quincy, but expect their runners to break out at the meet.

The Maroons have their expectations set high, with hopes to qualify for Regionals and the Sectional meet, with the chance of having many qualifying athletes.



The Moline Boys lead the crowd at the Pleasant Valley Spartan Invitational. Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith.

Moline volleyball sets up for success

By Isabella Sullivan

LO'T Sports Editor

This season the Moline volleyball team has been resilient as ever, competing through this year's unpredictable Conference matchups. As the team began their journey, each of them had one goal in mind, to win the Western Big Six Conference title. Under the new coaching staff led by Sarah Fetter, and assisted by Maddie Peterson, the rebuilding of the team has created a greatly united front. With the new mentors, the energy has been renewed and has excited the team to take on the court. The girls are preparing to take on any adversity that gets in the way of their conference title.

So far, volleyball has begun to compete in the conference as their current record is 6-2. Heading into the 2nd round of conference, with a large majority of home games, the team wishes to overcome the challenge of playing their only 2 conference losses. Quincy and Geneseo. Looking forward to the Quincy match, the team is focusing on all the skills that they may have lacked in the previous game, such as keeping up not only energy but a drive for the win. The last match against Quincy was one in definite need of great defensive effort, whether it was a pursuing serve receive, or an aggressive block. Going forward they will be trusting their teaching as well as each other as they continue through this next round ready for any match they must face.

This past week, the team juggled a busy week at Wharton with a week of 3 games! Starting off strong the girls took on a 2-1 set win against Galesburg, then sadly took a loss in 2-1 sets from Orion, and lastly ended the week dominating the Panthers in 2 sets.

Looking ahead, be sure to make your way out to our very own Wharton Fieldhouse to cheer on Moline volleyball as they take on this final round of the Western Big Six.



Seniors Kaylin Hoffman and Mya Johnson jump up for the block against Orion

Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith

Moline girls swim makes a splash

By Eleah Smith

LO'T Head Photographer

The Moline girls swim season is well underway. The teams have traveled to and hosted multiple different teams and schools beginning on Sept. 19, when the Moline girls swim team traveled to Normal, IL, to compete in the Iron Invite. The team placed sixth overall, and freshman Hayden Hoover achieved a personal best in both the 100 yard backstroke and the 50 yard freestyle. The girls also had stellar performances in the team's 200 yard freestyle relay, which was completed in under two minutes, and the 400, which was completed in four and a half minutes.

Coach Michael Roach says, "The season's going pretty well" even though they have "a smaller group of girls this year... They have been working hard, and they have been making some good progress." He says there are some technical things to improve on, but the girls are very coachable and are making good progress. The coaches have been implementing race strategies that the girls are really working on to get better times.



Janelle Bull backstrokes through the lane.

Photo Courtesy of Eleah Smith.

Coach Roach says that upperclassmen Gianna DeLeon, Janelle Bull, and Laila Moore are really working on their form, and it shows in their performance. His goals for the season are for the team to compete at Sectionals and to get at least one person to compete at the IHSA State competition. Come watch the girls at their next home meet on Tuesday, October 13th against Galesburg.